

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
29 April 2004 (29.04.2004)

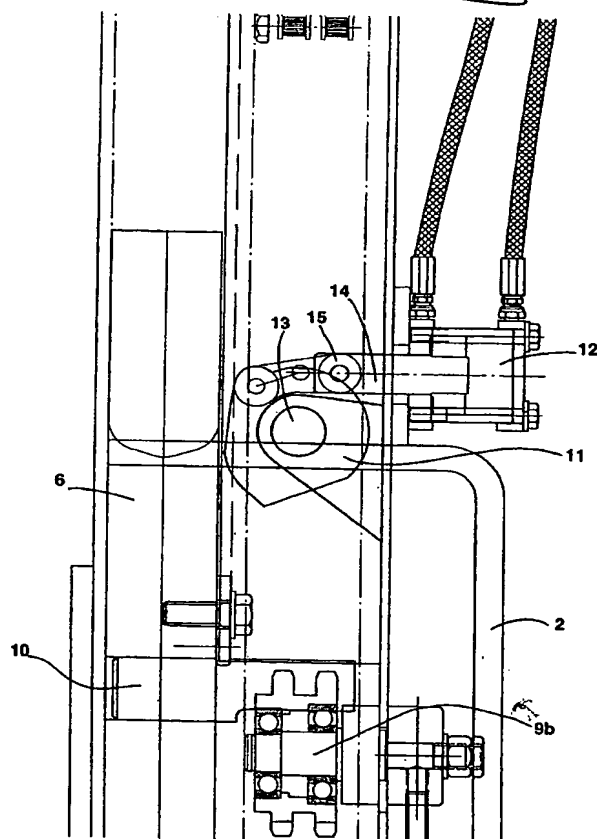
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/035940 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: E02D 7/08, E04G 23/08, E01C 23/12, E21B 1/02
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/NZ2003/000236
- (22) International Filing Date: 21 October 2003 (21.10.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 522158 21 October 2002 (21.10.2002) NZ
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- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: A LOCKING MECHANISM



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method of securing a shaft at any point along its substantially vertical axis of movement, wherein the method includes a locking device that is moveable with respect to the shaft. The method is characterised by the step of moving the locking device into a position wherein at least one face of the locking device mates against at least one point on the shaft so as to secure the shaft at any point along its substantially vertical axis of movement. In particular this invention relates to a method of securing a drop hammer at any point along its substantially vertical axis by use of a hydraulically controlled cam.



Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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